

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

GEORGE EDWARD SCHOLEFIELD, M.B.E.,

M.D. Edin., D.P.H. Vict.

Hon. Assoc. Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England.

ORMSKIRK:

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West Lancashire Rural District Council.

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GEORGE EDWARD SCHOLEFIELD, M.B.E.,
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West Lancashire Rural District Council, 1919.

Chairman HENRY UNDERWOOD.
Vice-Chairman . . JOHN PIMBLEY.

Altcar	REV. JOSEPH LLEWELLYN.
Aughton	HENRY UNDERWOOD.
,, ...	RICHARD ROTHWELL.
Bickerstaffe	RICHARD RIMMER.
,, ...	THOMAS HEYES.
Bispham	THOMAS ASPINWALL.
Downholland	JOB SUMNER.
Halsall	JOHN HARRISON.
Hesketh	WILLIAM IDDON.
Lydiate	PETER LOVELADY.
Maghull	JOHN PIMBLEY.
Melling	RICHARD SUMNER.
North Meols	WILLIAM CAUNCE.
Rufford	CHARLES YATES.
Scarisbrick	BERNARD H. HOLMAN.
,, ...	PETER RIMMER.
Simonswood	WILLIAM LEDSON.
Tarleton	ROBERT LATHAM.

Annual Report for 1919.

To the Chairman and Members of the West Lancashire Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Twenty-second Annual Report, dealing with the Vital Statistics, the Public Health, and the Sanitary work of the District during the year 1919.

POPULATION.—The Registrar General estimates that the Population on which the Birth Rate should be calculated is 20,067, an increase of 97 over the figures for the previous year, and that on which to calculate the Death Rate 19,264, an increase of 1,441.

BIRTH RATE.—The number of Births registered belonging to the District during the year was 359, 182 boys and 177 girls, giving an Annual Birth Rate of 17·8, which is 0·5 above that for 1918, but 1·7 below the average of the preceding 10 years. Twenty Births were illegitimate, which is 5·5 per cent. of the total births.

DEATH RATE.—289 Deaths were registered. After adding those of 61 residents who died outside the District, and deducting those of 26 who were non-residents, the net total was 324, of which number 164 were males and 160 females. This gives an ANNUAL DEATH RATE of 16·8 per 1000 of the estimated population. which is 0·9 less than that for 1918, but 4·7 above the average of the previous 10 years.

EPIDEMIC DEATH RATE.—There were 7 deaths due to the principal Epidemic Diseases, 2 to Enteric Fever, 4 to Diphtheria, and 1 to Diarrhœa. This gives an EPIDEMIC DEATH RATE of 0·36 per 1000 of the population, which is 0·31 below that for 1918, and 0·3 below the average of the preceding 10 years. There were 13 deaths due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, giving a Death Rate of 0·67 per 1000, that for the previous year being 0·78, and the average of the preceding 10 years 0·70.

Infantile Mortality Rate.—31 Deaths of Children under one year of age were recorded which gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 86 per 1000 Births, being 6 more than in 1918, and 1 more than the average of the 10 preceding years. Three of the Deaths were of illegitimate children, being 9·7 per cent. of the infantile deaths.

Commenting on some of the deaths due to other diseases 76 were due to Influenza with a rate of 3·9 per 1000; Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases 45, with a rate of 2·3 per 1000; Heart Diseases 32, with a rate of 1·6; and Cancer 22 with a rate of 1·1.

The table following compares the foregoing rates with those for England and Wales.

Deaths and other Rates for England and Wales and the West Lancashire Rural District.

	Birth-rate per 1000 living.	Death-rate per 1000 living.	Epidemic Death-rate per 1000 living.	Infant Mortality per 1000 Births.
England and Wales.....	18·5	13·8	·34	89
West Lancashire Rural District	17·8	16·8	·31	86

The figures under Epidemic Death Rate do not include deaths due to Diarrhœa.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Malaria, Dysentery, Pneumonia and Encephalitis have been added to the Notifiable Infectious Diseases, and these, of which there were 65 notified, have been included in the figures for the year. One hundred and ninety-three cases in all, came to my knowledge in 164 houses, and comparing these figures with the previous year there were 517 fewer cases, and 339 fewer houses infected. The chief cause of the decrease was in the number of cases of Measles, there being only 15 cases in 1919, whereas there were 555 cases in 1918. There were, however, 2 more deaths due to the inclusion of Pneumonia. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever was also fewer, there being 24 cases against 49 in 1918. On the other hand Diphtheria was more prevalent with 50 cases, and 29 in 1918, with 1 more death.

In addition to the cases notified by Medical Practitioners, Parents notified 1 case of Scarlet Fever and 4 cases of

Measles; the School Attendance Officer 4 cases of Whooping Cough, and enquiry brought to light 2 cases of Scarlet Fever.

SMALL-POX.

There have been no cases of this disease during the year, and only 1 instance came to my knowledge of a youth being exposed to infection. He was promptly vaccinated and did not develop any symptoms of Small-pox.

SCARLET FEVER.

Houses Infected, 18. Cases, 24.

The Townships affected were:—Altcar, 1 house 1 case; Aughton, 3 houses 4 cases; Halsall, 1 house 1 case; Hesketh, 1 house 1 case; Melling, 3 houses 4 cases; North Meols, 5 houses 7 cases; Scarisbrick, 3 houses 4 cases; Tarleton, 1 house 2 cases. There was no appearance at anytime of the disease taking on an epidemic nature, and most of the cases had apparently no connection with any other.

DIPHTHERIA.

Houses Infected, 38. Cases, 50. Deaths, 4.

There were 21 cases of this disease more than in the previous year, and they were distributed among the following Townships:—Aughton, 17 houses 25 cases 1 death; Bickerstaffe, 3 houses 3 cases; Bispham, 1 house 1 case; Halsall, 2 houses 3 cases 1 death; Hesketh, 1 house 2 cases 1 death; Lydiate, 2 houses 2 cases; Maghull, 2 houses 2 cases; North Meols, 2 houses 3 cases; Scarisbrick, 5 houses 5 cases; Tarleton, 3 houses 4 cases 1 death. The Township of Aughton was the chief sufferer and here the influence of school attendance was marked, the majority of the cases were children attending either one of the Ormskirk Schools when the disease was prevalent in that place, or Christ Church School, Aughton. In the other Townships the cases had apparently no connection with each other.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Houses Infected, 4. Cases, 4. Deaths, 2.

The 2 patients who died resided on premises where the surroundings were not in a sanitary condition when inspected, one of the others was a travelling fish hawker.

MEASLES.

Houses Infected, 13. Cases, 15.

These cases call for no comment being distributed among 7 Townships and having no connection one with the other.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Houses Infected, 3. Cases, 4.

These cases were discovered by the School Attendance Officer when making his enquiries re absentees from school.

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA.

Houses Infected, 1. Case, 1. Death, 1.

ERYSIPELAS.

There were 7 cases of this disease notified with 1 death, which was apparently a septic case.

MALARIA.

Fourteen cases of this disease were notified. In every case the disease had been contracted while in the Army on active service abroad.

DYSENTERY.

One case of this disease was notified, but on sending a specimen of the patient's fæces away to be examined bacteriologically the report was negative.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Twenty cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 3 of them in the Epileptic Homes, Maghull. In 17 cases the disease was located in the respiratory organs, and in 3 in other parts of the body. In one instance there were 2 cases in the same house. There were 13 deaths due to Tuberculosis ; 5 of these were notified during the year.

The Medical Practitioners notify cases satisfactorily.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were 3 cases of this disease notified, all in Scarisbrick, and all in the practice of the same Nurse-Midwife. There seemed no connection between the cases. The Nurse-Midwife had been apparently most particular in her work and all her instruments were very clean, all her clothing, &c., were disinfected after each case and there was a considerable interval between each one. In 1 case there is slight opacity of the Cornea of the left eye remaining.

PNEUMONIA.

This disease became notifiable on the 1st of March, after which date 49 cases in 46 different houses were notified, and there were 5 deaths. The majority of the cases were in the early part of the period and were complications of Influenza. Only in 3 houses were there multiple cases. The cases were unevenly distributed throughout the District, there being 16 cases in Aughton, 8 in Bickerstaffe, 8 in Hesketh, and 6 in Melling, while Altcar, Bispham, Downholland and Rufford had no cases.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

One case was notified, but on making investigations I had grave doubts as to whether it was a correct diagnosis.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

One death occurred from this disease, transferred from Liverpool, where the patient, a girl, was at school. As far as could be discovered she had not been exposed to any source of infection, either while at school or when at home for a short holiday a few days before death occurred.

INFLUENZA.

This disease was very prevalent in the early months of the year. Seventy-six deaths were certified as being due to the malady, in 53 cases Pneumonia being entered as the secondary cause. The epidemic was severe in January and February, and ceased by the end of March. Few parts of the District escaped, Aughton, North Meols, Scarisbrick and Tarleton suffering most. Children seemed very susceptible many of the schools being depleted in the course of a few days and school closure was adopted in 19 instances for varying periods.

ISOLATION AND DISINFECTION.

All houses in which cases of an infectious nature are known to exist, whether notified by medical men or not, are visited, an endeavour being made to discover the source of the infection and frequently much valuable information is gained, and other cases are often brought to light.

Instructions are given to the householders regarding the precautions that should be taken to prevent, if possible, further spread of the disease, and a copy of the "Rules and Regulations to be observed in the Management of Infectious

Diseases" is left at the house, and should the disease be Scarlet Fever, an additional leaflet is left, drawing attention to the responsibilities and liabilities of parents in regard to the notification and the prevention of the spread of the disease. The leaflets are also distributed among the parents of children who are attending a school in which cases of Scarlet Fever have occurred. It is not unusual for parents to consider that a mild attack of Scarlet Fever is Measles, and in this way much mischief is done by the patient being allowed to mix with other children while in an infectious state. Leaflets giving information regarding Measles are also, when necessary, supplied to School Teachers for distribution.

Izal is supplied in all cases by the Inspector to persons in whose house there are cases of infectious disease, if application is made for it.

At the termination of all cases of Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Puerperal Fever, Scarlet Fever, Tuberculosis and Small-pox, the hospital porter proceeds to the house, and thoroughly disinfects the rooms where the patients have been, removing to Holly House for steam disinfection everything that may require it.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

"Holly House," Aughton, formerly a country residence, was acquired by the District Council, and after alterations had been made so as to provide accommodation for 8 Scarlet Fever and 2 Enteric Fever cases, it was opened for the admission of patients on February 9th, 1897. Attached to the establishment is a "Thresh" Steam Disinfector and there is also a Brougham Ambulance and Bedding Van. Along with the house there are 4 acres of land.

A new Pavilion was opened in July, 1902, for the reception of cases of Scarlet Fever.

Two new small wards were added at the beginning of 1911 giving accommodation for 6 more patients. At the same time some much-needed accommodation for the resident staff was provided.

The Urban District of Croston, the Urban District of Skelmersdale, and the Ormskirk Guardians (for the Workhouse and Schools) have agreements with the Council by which they can send patients to the hospital.

The following is a summary of the work done at the hospital during the year:—On January 1st, there were 2 patients suffering from Diphtheria in residence, and there were admitted 26 cases of Scarlet Fever, 43 cases of Diphtheria, and 2 cases of Typhoid Fever. The Scarlet Fever cases were from the following Townships:—Altcar 1, Aughton 4, Melling 4, North Meols 7. Scarisbrick 1, Croston 4, Crosby 3, and Skelmersdale 2. The cases of Diphtheria were from Aughton 25, Bickerstaffe 2, Halsall 3, Hesketh 1, Lydiate 2, Maghull 2, Scarisbrick 5, Tarleton 3. One case of Typhoid Fever was from Downholland and the other from Skelmersdale.

Twenty cases of Scarlet Fever and 33 of Diphtheria were discharged cured.

There were 4 deaths, 2 due to Diphtheria and 2 to Typhoid Fever.

70 per cent. of the ascertained cases of Scarlet Fever in the District, and 86 per cent. of the cases of Diphtheria were removed to hospital.

The average length of residence in hospital of those suffering from Scarlet Fever was 6 weeks and 1 day, of those suffering from Diphtheria 5 weeks and 1 day.

The average number of patients in hospital per week was 7·5, the highest number at any time was 19, and the lowest 1.

From the opening of the hospital there have been admitted 1294 cases of Scarlet Fever, 298 of Diphtheria, 129 of Enteric Fever, and 14 of Small-pox, making in all 1735 cases admitted.

The outside work was as follows:—57 journeys with the Ambulance, 75 with the Bedding Van, and 55 by Cycle; 325 rooms have been disinfected in 94 houses; the Disinfector was used 69 times and 2,076 articles were disinfected. From the first there have been 1377 journeys with the Ambulance, 3274 with the Bedding Van, 11,006 rooms have been disinfected in 2875 houses, the Disinfector has been used 3983 times and 112,524 articles have been disinfected.

Notwithstanding the fact of being without a second man during a considerable part of the year, under Miss Pick's supervision the house and grounds have been kept in as good condition as in previous years.

BACTERIOLOGY.

Seventy-one swabs from throats and noses were sent away to be examined and reported upon. 30 of these contained Diphtheria Bacilli, in 38 there were no Bacilli found and 3 were sterile. One specimen of blood was sent which gave a positive reaction for Typhoid Fever. One specimen of fæces was sent from a case notified as Dysentery the report being negative.

SCHOOLS.

There are 23 Elementary Schools in the District. All are supplied with water from public service. The sanitary arrangements are on the whole satisfactory, only 2 being connected with main sewers.

EXCLUSION OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL.

When cases of infectious disease appear in a school, attempts are made in the first instance to prevent the disease spreading, by not only excluding the patient, but also all other members of the family, and any other children who have been directly exposed to infection; in this way the outbreak is frequently limited to a few cases, and it is unnecessary to close the school. Exception to the foregoing rule is sometimes made in the case of Measles and Whooping Cough, where those who have been exposed to infection have already had the disease.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.

During the epidemic of Influenza in the early months of the year I considered it advisable that the following schools should be closed for the periods mentioned :—

Rufford ...	...	...	...	Until January 6th.		
Lydiate C. E.	...	...	...	,,	,,	6th.
Maghull C. E.	From February 3rd until February 17th.					
Holmeswood, Rufford ...	,,	,,	10th	,,	March	10th.
Rufford ...	,,	,,	12th	,,	,,	10th.
Tarleton, Holy Trinity ...	,,	,,	13th	,,	,,	3rd.
Aughton R. C.	,,	,,	17th	,,	,,	17th.
Bispham ...	,,	,,	18th	,,	,,	24th.
Melling C. E.	,,	,,	19th	,,	,,	10th.
Maghull R. C.	,,	,,	16th	,,	,,	17th.
Aughton, Christ Church	,,	,,	21st	,,	,,	24th.

Scarisbrick, St. Mary's	From February	21st	until	March		24th.
Banks, St. Stephen's	,,	,,	26th	,,	,,	17th.
Banks, Prim. Methodist	,,	,,	26th	,,	,,	17th.
Bickerstaffe	,,	,,	27th	,,	,,	24th.
Aughton, Parochial	,,	,,	27th	,,	,,	17th.
Altcar ...	,,	,,	28th	,,	,,	24th.
Scarisbrick, St. Mark's	,,	March	5th	,,	,,	24th.
Lydiate R. C.	,,	,,	5th	,,	,,	24th.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

Although containing an area of 61,600 acres, the physical features of the District do not vary very much. The Township of North Meols which lies to the West is flat and low, with sluggish natural drainage. The greater part of the several Townships of Altcar, Downholland, Halsall, Hesketh, Lydiate, Maghull, Scarisbrick, and Tarleton are also low and flat, but with slight undulations in places; while Aughton, Bickerstaffe, Bispham, Melling, Rufford, and Simonswood are all more or less undulating. At no part, however, is the altitude over 300 feet above sea level.

The population very largely consists of farmers and people connected with the farming industry. Aughton, Maghull, Scarisbrick and Tarleton, have, in addition, a considerable number of residents who are engaged in business in Liverpool, Preston, Southport, and other towns.

SEWERING AND DRAINING.

AUGHTON.—In this Township about three-fourths of the houses are connected with the system of sewers. The sewage from the southern watershed is carried to outfall works at the south-west of the Township, where it is treated with Alumino-Ferric, and allowed to settle in 4 open tanks from which it flows on to land for treatment by downward filtration. Good results are still got from that portion of the land which is covered with clinkers and cinders. The sewage from the northern watershed is, by agreement with

the Ormskirk Urban District Council, received into the sewers of that place, and is carried to outfall works in Scarisbrick.

BICKERSTAFFE.—A small portion of this Township which lies close to Ormskirk is, by agreement, connected with the sewer of the Urban District Council.

CESSPOOL SYSTEM.

In the great part of the District this system, with its attendant disadvantages, is the only available means of dealing with the sewage. In the more sparsely populated parts of the District where land is sufficient for the purpose, with ordinary care, a cesspool does not become a nuisance; but if the amount of land is insufficient, or the people are careless a nuisance quickly arises. There has been this difficulty in past years in Banks and many nuisances have been caused, some of which have been very difficult to remedy, but I am now pleased to report that arrangements have been made to empty all cesspools that are liable to become a nuisance, by contract, the Council providing a specially constructed cart for the purpose.

HOUSE DRAINS.

Throughout the District generally these are fairly satisfactory. Inspections are continually being made, and defects, as found, are remedied; the report of the Inspector, which follows, showing the work done in that department.

DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT.

In Aughton where there is a system of sewerage, excrement is largely disposed of by water carriage, also many of the larger houses in other parts of the District have water carriage from the house, but with the exception of a few houses in Tarleton, which are in close proximity to a tidal river, the connection is with a cesspool. The majority of the rest are provided with privy ashpits, built on a plan which some years ago was approved by the Local Government Board's Inspectors and is as satisfactory as anything of the kind can be. Old fashioned deep privy middens are still found in the course of inspection, but are growing less in number year by year.

There are in the whole District approximately 3286 Privy Middens, 688 Water Closets, 407 Pail Closets, and 30 Waste Water Closets. There are 991 Dry Ashpits, and 80 Portable Receptacles for refuse.

The substitution of portable ashbins for ashpits has been instituted during recent years, and as previously mentioned 80 have been provided.

Including the year 1913 there have been 103 privies converted to water closets, and 62 converted to pails. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining materials and the scarcity of labour during the war the Council allowed many to stand over until more normal times, after slight repairs had been effected. Including the same period 31 new water closets, 59 pails, and 26 privies (on the new plan) have been provided.

SCAVENGING.

In Aughton and North Meols Scavenging is done by contract with satisfactory results. In other parts of the District householders have to make their own arrangements for the removal of the refuse.

A reference to the Inspector's report will show the amount of work done during the year in this department.

FOOD.

The milk supply of the greater part of the District has been good both as to quantity and quality. In the Townships of Aughton and Maghull, however, in the Spring and Summer there was a certain amount of scarcity, the milk producers asserting that the controlled price did not pay, and dairy cows were sent to the grading station and sold for beef, eventually this was rectified to some extent and the supply became better in Autumn. The Food and Drugs Act is administered by the County Police and I am informed that 14 samples of milk were taken, 4 in Aughton, 1 in Lydiate, 6 in Maghull, and 3 in North Meols; after examination 2 dealers were prosecuted, and 1 was fined £10 and costs for having 9 per cent. added water, and the other £2 5s. 6d. costs for having 10 parts per 100,000 of cow dung in the milk. I am indebted to Superintendent Hodgson of Ormskirk for the foregoing information and also for the

added information that 21 samples of other foods were taken but no prosecutions followed. Superintendent Marshall of Chorley informs me that no samples were taken in the Townships of Bispham, Hesketh, Rufford and Tarleton and that there were no prosecutions.

THE DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS in the District were regularly visited and their condition at those times was found to be satisfactory. Instructions for lime washing, where necessary, were carried out without a notice being served. There are 47 Cowkeepers and Milk Dealers in the District and 104 inspections were made.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There are 6 registered slaughter-houses in the District and their condition was satisfactory when visited.

MEAT INSPECTION.—One carcas of a cow was condemned as unfit for human consumption, as it had suffered from inflammation shortly after calving.

BAKEHOUSES.—These have been regularly visited and found satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District is, on the whole, well supplied with water of excellent quality. The Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Joint Board acquired 2 wells in Aughton, another has been sunk in Bickerstaffe, and a fourth has been secured from the Urban District Council of Skelmersdale; and from this Board's service 9 townships are more or less supplied. Two receive their supply partially from the Ormskirk Urban District Council, 2 from the Preston Rural District Council, 2 from the St. Helens Corporation, and 1 from the Lathom and Burscough Urban District Council. A reference to the Table following will show the number of houses supplied from each source.

As near as can be ascertained, at the end of 1919 there were 4038 houses in the District supplied with water from public mains, being 89·6 per cent. of the inhabited houses.

HOUSES SUPPLIED BY PUBLIC SERVICE AT THE END OF 1919.

1918.	Wigan Rural District Council.	Lathom and Burscough Main.	Liverpool Corporation.	Ormskirk Urban District Council.	Preston Rural District Council.	St. Helens Corporation.	Southport Joint Water Board.	Totals.	Increase during the year.	Percentage of Inhabited Houses thus supplied.
Altcar	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	59	...	61·3
Aughton	...	...	...	62	...	...	721	783	...	95·7
Bickerstaffe	...	...	...	55	...	...	260	315	...	80·5
Bispham	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3·4
Downholland	...	...	...	...	...	...	131	131	...	88·5
Halsall	...	...	...	...	...	...	272	272	...	82·6
Hesketh	...	...	...	...	252	...	42	294	...	100·0
Lydiate	...	...	...	...	...	...	147	147	...	68·7
Maghull	...	...	...	...	...	4	288	292	...	97·6
Melling	...	...	1	...	...	210	...	211	...	100·0
North Meols	...	...	...	...	1	...	390	391	...	92·8
Rufford	...	179	...	...	...	...	...	179	...	99·0
Scarisbrick ...	...	6	...	...	...	...	430	436	...	87·9
Simonswood ...	...	...	...	...	...	49	...	49	...	76·5
Tarleton	...	...	...	...	477	...	...	477	...	93·0
Totals for District	2	185	1	117	730	263	2740	4038	...	89·6

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Sanitary Staff consists of 2 Inspectors of Nuisances, the District being divided for their work into Northern and Southern areas.

From the Table appended it will be seen that they dealt with 210 nuisances of various kinds and of these 193 were abated, 121 not requiring either Preliminary or Statutory Notices.

A summary of the work done by them in each Township is given herewith.

The Authority has adopted the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act 1890, and the Public Health Act Amendments Acts of 1890 and 1907.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT 1901.

There are 126 Workshops in the District. Two new ones were registered, 2 were transferred, 2 were re-opened, and 10 were closed.

Two hundred and fifty-seven inspections were made, 6 were found to require cleaning and 4 notices were required. The work required in each case was done. A table will be found annexed giving particulars.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ON FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES & HOMEWORKERS PREMISES.

1.—INSPECTIONS. Including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Number of Inspections.	Number of Notices.	Number of Prosecutions.
Factories (including factory laundries)	...	...	...
Workplaces	...	...	...
Workshops (including workshop laundries)	257	4	...
Homeworkers Premises ...	...	...	...
Total ...	257	4	...

2.—Defects Found.

Particulars of Defects.	Defects Found.	Defects Remedied.	Reported to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions.
Nuisances under P.H. Act ...	...	...	...	...
Want of Ventilation	..	...	...	...
Want of Cleanliness	6	6	...	...
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...
Total	6	6	...	...

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Laundries 1, Tinsmiths 1, Bakers 9, Basketmakers 15, Blacksmiths 28, Boat Builders 1, Dresmakers 13, Joiners 3, Wheelwrights 26, Sadlers 2, Shoemakers 20, Tailors 7.—Total 126.

HOUSING.

The number of houses in the District as given to me by the Assistant Overseers at the end of the year was 4505, and of these about 3200 come in the category of Working Class Houses.

Owing to the war and the economic conditions, building by private enterprise for workmen has almost ceased, only 1 house having been erected in 1919.

The population is estimated by the Registrar General for the Birth Rate to be 20,067, at the Census of 1911 it was 20,684. During the year there have been no important changes; in the immediate future, owing to the opening of a weaving shed in the Township of Tarleton, there will probably be an increase there, but the need of new houses will be met by the Council's Housing Scheme.

The number of houses in the Council's Scheme to meet the needs of the District is 350, and when this is completed it is anticipated that there will be a sufficient number to meet the public requirement.

Overcrowding exists to a considerable extent, there are 57 overcrowded by a single family, 119 in which 2 families are living, and two in which there are 3 families. The cause is shortage of houses in the localities in which it exists, and there is no remedy until new houses are built. It serves no useful purpose to take measures to attempt to relieve the condition, as there are no other houses into which the surplus inhabitants can go. The Table appended shows how matters are in the different Townships.

The general standard of the houses in the District is fairly good, except in the older class of house where there are no damp courses. The defects in the unfit houses chiefly consist of damp, and dilapidations caused by damp, in others the walls and wood work are giving either through age or poor workmanship. There are over 100 to be replaced on these accounts.

The chief difficulty in remedying unfitness is the scarcity of labour and the difficulty in procuring materials, and also the cost of the necessary work.

The conditions regarding water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal are set out on pages 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Two small portions of the Township of North Meols are scheduled as unhealthy areas on account of the houses having at some time been divided into two although originally built for single dwellings.

No complaints have been received regarding any area.

Summarising some of the foregoing particulars and figures, there are required new houses :—

To meet unsatisfied demand, growth of population, and overcrowding	217
To replace dwellings unfit for habitation	83
To replace dwellings falling below a reasonable standard...	30
To meet anticipated deficiency for new industry ...	20

One representation was made to the Council that a house in Scarisbrick was in such a damp and dilapidated condition that it was unfit for habitation. A closing order was made and the house was vacated.

Appended is the Tabular statement of the Causes of Death, the Births, and the Population for the year.

A Tabular statement of the cases of Infectious Diseases.

The Report of the Inspector of Nuisances and Tables.

The Annual Report on Canal Boats.

I am, Gentleman,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. E. SCHOLEFIELD, M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.,

Hon. Assoc. Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT, 1919.

CIVILIANS ONLY.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All Causes	164	160
Enteric Fever	2	0
Diphtheria and Croup	1	3
Influenza	37	39
Erysipelas	0	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	7
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	0
Cancer, Malignant Disease	7	15
Rheumatic Fever	0	1
Meningitis	4	1
Organic Heart Disease	14	18
Bronchitis	11	8
Pneumonia (all forms)	11	9
Other Respiratory Diseases	4	2
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	1	0
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	0	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	1
Parturition apart from Puerperal Fever	0	1
Congenital Debility, &c.	9	4
Violence, apart from Suicide	3	2
Suicide	1	0
Other Defined Diseases	47	47
Causes, ill-defined or unknown	2	0
Special Cause (included in above) Poliomyelitis	0	1
Deaths under 1 year of age	24	7
Illegitimate	2	1
Total Births	182	177
Legitimate	172	167
Illegitimate	10	10

Population—For Birth Rate ... 20,067.
For Death Rate ... 19,264.

Table showing the number of Houses in each Township and in the whole District known to be infected during the year, and the numbers of Cases and Deaths.

1919.	Pneumonia.			Scarlet Fever.			Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup.			Enteric Fever.			Measles.			Whooping Cough.			Epidemic Diarrhœa.			Erysipelas.			Puerperal Fever.			Malaria.			TOTALS.		
TOWNSHIP.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C	D.
ALTCAR	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	
AUGHTON	13	16	...	3	4	...	17	25	1	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	8	8	...	47	59	1
BICKERSTAFEE	8	8	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	11	...	
BISPHAM	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	
DOWNHOLLAND	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	
HALSALL	2	2	2	1	1	...	2	3	1	..	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	7	3	
HESKETH	8	8	1	1	1	...	1	2	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	14	14	2
LYDIATE	1	1	1	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	9	10	1
MAGHULL	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	8	1
MELLING	6	6	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	12	13	...
NORTH MEOLS	2	2	...	5	7	...	2	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	13	...
RUFFORD	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...
SCARISBRICK	1	1	1	3	4	...	5	5	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	15	16	2
SIMONSWOOD	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
TARLETON	3	3	...	1	2	...	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	12	2
WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT	46	49	5	18	24	...	38	50	4	4	4	2	13	15	...	3	4	...	1	1	1	7	7	1	...	...	...	14	14	...	144	168	13

REPORT OF THE INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Dear Sir,

We have great pleasure in submitting our Annual Report for the whole of the District, as to the number of matters dealt with under the various Acts relating to Public Health during the Year 1919.

ALTCAR.—Workshops, registered number, 1, Schools Visited, 1. Total number of Inspections made 2.

In this Township a rough inspection was made as to the number of insanitary houses for the purpose of making a return to the Housing Commissioner but no records were made of the inspections owing to want of time.

AUGHTON.—Number of Nuisances dealt with 60, Number of Notices served 11, Number of Notices complied with 11, Drains tested 1, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops 7, Registered Slaughterhouses 4, Workshops, registered number 18, Scavenging, number of receptacles emptied 4,730, Schools visited 2. Total number of Inspections made 120.

BICKERSTAFFE.—Number of Nuisances dealt with 26, Number of Notices served 10, Number of Notices complied with 5, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops 2, Workshops, registered number 11, Schools visited 1. Total number of Inspections made 43.

BISPHAM.—Number of Nuisances dealt with 3, Number of Notices served 1, Number of Notices complied with 1, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops 1, Workshops, registered number 7, Schools visited 1. Total number of Inspections made 25.

DOWNHOLLAND.—Number of Nuisances dealt with 10, Number of Notices served 3, Number of Notices complied with 3, Workshops, registered number 3, Schools visited 1. Total number of Inspections made 15.

HALSALL.—Number of Nuisances dealt with 4, Number of Notices served 1, Number of Notices complied with 1, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops 7, Workshops, registered number 7, Schools visited 1. Total number of Inspections made 37.

HESKETH - WITH - BECCONSALL.—Number of Nuisances dealt with 8, Number of Notices served 5, Number of Notices complied with 5, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops 2, Work-

shops, registered number 10, Public Health (Water) Act Water Certificate 1, Schools visited 1, Carcases examined 1. Total number of Inspections made 48.

LYDIATE.—Number of Nuisances dealt with 4, Number of Notices served 2, Number of Notices complied with 1, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops 2, Workshops, registered number 9, Schools visited 2. Total number of Inspections made 28.

MAGHULL.—Number of Nuisances dealt with 11, Number of Notices served 1, Number of Notices complied with 1, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops 2, Workshops, registered number 9, Slaughterhouses 2, Schools visited 2. Total number of Inspections made 33.

MELLING.—Number of Nuisances dealt with 27, Number of Notices served 8, Number of Notices complied with 5, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops 1, Workshops, registered number 2, Schools visited 2. Total number of Inspections made 40.

NORTH MEOLS.—Number of Nuisances dealt with 18, Number of Notices served 8, Number of Notices complied with 8, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops 12, Workshops, registered number 7, Scavenging, number of receptacles emptied 3,683, Schools visited 2. Total number of Inspections made 80.

RUFFORD.—Number of Nuisances dealt with 5, Number of Notices served 4, Number of Notices complied with 4, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops 2, Workshops, registered number 13, Schools visited 2. Total number of Inspections made 45.

SCARISBRICK.—Number of Nuisances dealt with 12, Number of Notices served 7, Number of Notices complied with 7, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshop 4, Workshops, registered number 10, Schools visited 3. Total number of Inspections made 51.

SIMONSWOOD.—Workshops, registered number 2. Total number of Inspections made 4.

TARLETON.—Number of Nuisances dealt with 22, Number of Notices served 11, Number of Notices complied with 10, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops 5, Workshops, registered number 17, Schools visited 2. Total number of Inspections made 89.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF MATTERS DEALT WITH BY THE INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES DURING 1919.

Whole District.	Nuisances from various causes.	Inspections made to such Nuisances.	Drains tested.	Samples of water analysed.	Water supplies under P H A 1875 & P H (W) A 1878	Registered Slaughter-Houses.	Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	Number of Inspections.	Factory and Workshops Act, 1901-1907.	Number of Inspections.	Scavenging, number of receptacles emptied.	Preliminary Notices served.	Complied with.	Statutory Notices served.	Complied with.	Schools Inspected.	Carcases Inspected.	Total Inspections.
Altcar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
Aughton	60	52	1	...	...	4	7	20	18	36	4730	11	11	...	...	2	...	120
Bickerstaffe	26	15	...	...	...	...	2	4	11	22	...	6	5	4	...	1	...	43
Bispham	3	8	...	...	...	...	1	2	7	14	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	25
Downholland.....	10	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	...	3	3	...	...	1	...	15
Halsall	4	8	...	...	...	...	7	14	7	14	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	37
Hesketh-with-Becconsall...	8	16	...	...	1	...	2	4	10	22	...	5	5	...	...	1	1	48
Lydiate	4	5	...	...	...	...	2	3	9	18	...	1	1	1	...	2	...	28
Maghull	11	5	...	...	...	2	2	4	9	16	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	33
Melling	27	26	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	7	...	7	4	1	1	2	...	40
North Meols ...	18	38	...	...	...	...	12	24	7	14	3683	8	8	...	...	2	...	80
Rufford	5	11	...	...	...	...	2	4	13	26	...	4	4	...	...	2	...	45
Scarisbrick	12	16	...	...	...	...	4	8	10	22	...	6	6	1	1	3	...	51
Simonswood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tarleton	22	34	...	...	...	...	5	15	17	36	...	11	10	...	...	2	...	89
Total.....	210	242	1	...	1	6	47	104	126	259	8213	65	60	7	2	23	1	660

We beg to thank you for favours received during the year,

T. G. H. HUNTER, } Sanitary
JAS. AINSWORTH, } Inspectors.

TABLE SHOWING WORK DONE UNDER THE HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909-19.

1919.	Altcar.	Aughton.	Bickerstaffe.	Bispham.	Downholland	Halsall	Hesketh-with-Becconsall.	Lydiate	Maghull.	Melling.	North Meols.	Rufford.	Scarisbrick.	Simonswood.	Tarleton.	TOTALS.
Houses referred by M.O.H. to Local Authority	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	10	...	2	..	..	1	...	...	13
Houses inspected by Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	13
Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	6	...	...	4	...	...	23
Houses represented as unfit for human habitation ..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	1
Closing Orders made by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Defects remedied without Closing orders	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Defects in course of being remedied without Closing Orders	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Defects remedied after Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Closing Orders determined	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orders to execute work under Section 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Orders to execute work under Public Health Act, 1875	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Remedied without service of notice ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...		...
Houses closed by Owner in lieu of remedying defects		..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Houses in respect of which no action was taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.	Altcar.	Aughton.	Bickerstaffe.	Bispham.	Downholland.	Halsall.	Hesketh Bank.	Lydiate.	Maghull.	Melling.	North Meols.	Rufford.	Scarisbrick.	Simonswood.	Tarleton.	TOTALS.
Houses Overcrowded	...	8	4	...	1	4	1	4	2	5	13	...	4	1	10	57
Two Families in One House.....	...	12	2	4	1	12	14	4	6	3	18	9	6	2	26	119
Three Families in One House	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Empty Houses	3	...	4	...	2	...	...	9	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	21
Houses to be Condemned.....	8	1	4	...	...	6	6	4	...	4	5	3	12	4	26	83
Houses Inspected since 1910	4	121	181	18	25	41	26	173	41	42	282	34	61	50	126	1225
Houses Condemned	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	2	5
Houses Demolished	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	..	1	4
Houses to be erected by the Council	..	26	8	6	20	30	24	18	24	16	60	12	34	12	60	350

In addition to the above there were 82 houses inspected by the late J. Peach of which no records were kept.

ANNUAL REPORT ON CANAL BOATS
For the Year 1919.

To the Chairman and Members of the West Lancashire Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

The method of Inspection usually adopted by the Inspector is to board a boat when on a voyage, as at that time the occupants are unprepared for his visit, but he also inspects boats that he finds tied up.

Mr. T. G. H. Hunter, 24, Small Lane, Ormskirk, is the Inspector, he receives no special remuneration for this work.

Four boats were inspected during the year and the condition of them as to both repairs and cleanliness was good. The condition of their occupants was also good.

There were no infringments of the Acts and Regulations, and no prosecutions.

There were no cases of Infectious Diseases and no boats were detained for cleansing or disinfection.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

GEO. E. SCHOLEFIELD,
Medical Officer of Health.

T. G. H. HUNTER,
Inspector of Canal Boats.

